

(b) (3) P.L. 86-36

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

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CATEGORY = 1

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MESSAGE = 02778029

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~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ SECTION 3 OF 9

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ENP03-0075080 ~~ISHTAR~~ (IN PARAS MARKED) 3/00/9387-75 TAG [] CELS VC VN.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

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4. MILITARY REGION 4 ON 17 MARCH, ELEMENTS OF THE VC 275TH REGIMENT, VC 5TH DIVISION WERE RECONNOITERING THE AREAS OF MOC HOA (1046N 10555E XS0291), KIEN BINH (1036N 10603E XS1572), AND CAI TOM (1036N 10605E XS195732). AN ELEMENT OF THE DIVISION'S ARTILLERY/AA REGIMENT REPORTED ON 19 MARCH THAT AN ARTILLERY PIECE (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) WAS TO BE PICKED UP AT BAU NUOC DUC (1139N 10554E WT9888) IN WESTERN TAY NINH PROVINCE. ~~(ISHTAR)~~ THE HQ NVA 18B REGIMENT WAS LOCATED IN THUAN TRUNG DISTRICT, PHONG DINH PROVINCE AT WS550109 (1002N 10530E) ON 20 MARCH. THIS LOCATION PLACES THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ABOUT 13 KM NORTH OF ITS 18 MARCH POSITION OF WR591998 (0956N 10532E) AND CONFIRMS EARLIER REPORTS OF THE REGIMENT'S DEPLOYMENT TO THE PHONG DINH PROVINCE AREA. ~~(ISHTAR)~~ (3/00/8436-75 [] 14 MAR) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~ B. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS NEWS OF NVA VICTORIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUES TO BE DISSEMINATED TO REAR SERVICES ELEMENTS OPERATING IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ON 20 MARCH, HQ, 541ST STORAGE AREA REGIMENT INFORMED ITS SUBORDINATES THAT NVA FORCES HAD DESTROYED FOUR DISTRICT SEATS WHICH INCLUDED THUAN NAN, PHU BON PROVINCE; BUON HO, DARLAC PROVINCE; DUC LAP, QUANG DUC PROVINCE; HOA BINH, GO CONG PROVINCE AND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF DARLAC PROVINCE, BAN ME THUOT. THE REGIMENT ALSO STATED THAT OVER 2,000 PRISONERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED, INCLUDING 100 OFFICERS, THREE COLONELS AND 11 AMERICAN ADVISORS. IN ADDITION, NVA FORCES HAD COMPLETELY DECIMATED THE 43RD, 45TH AND 53RD REGIMENTS OF THE ARVN 23RD DIVISION AS WELL AS NUMEROUS CIVIL GUARD AND RANGER UNITS. IN REGARDS TO CAPTURED WAR MATERIAL, THE REGIMENT REPORTED THAT OVER 1000 TONS OF SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS HAD BEEN SEIZED, INCLUDING 105-MM HOWITZERS AND AT LEAST 20 155-MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS. THE REGIMENT ALSO REPORTED THAT PN 18 MARCH, NVA FORCES ATTACKED AND LIBERATED PLEIKU AND KONTUM PROVINCES, FORCING THE ARVN TO ABANDON THESE AREAS, "USING ALL TYPES OF TRANSPORT." AT ONE POINT, THE NVA REPORTEDLY INTERDICTED THE ARVN RETREAT ALONG ROUTE 7 AND DESTROYED SEVEN VEHICLES, WHILE ALLOWING 300 OTHER VEHICLES TO FLEE DOWN ROUTE 7. THE REGIMENT ALSO STATED THAT CONCOMITANT WITH THE ABOVE ACTION IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA, OTHER NVA FORCES WERE OVERRUNNING ARVN POSITION IN AND AROUND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PHU BON PROVINCE, CHEO REO AND THE DISTRICT OF GAI RAI IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE. REPORTEDLY THESE ATTACKS NETTED THE NVA 500 PRISONERS, 10 TANKS, 200 TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND AT LEAST 20 105-MM HOWITZERS. IN QUANG TRI PROVINCES, THE REGIMENT REPORTED THAT EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE NOT ATTACKED THE ARVN HADD COMPLETELY ABANDONED THEIR POSITIONS WITHIN THE PROVINCE, "LEAVING OUR FORCES IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THIS AREA." FINALLY, THE REGIMENT STATED THAT THE OVERRIDING REASONS FOR THESE GREAT VICTORIES WAS "OUR SECRECY

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Approved for release by NSA on 07-21-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

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AND OVER GREAT DETERMINATION." ALL UNITS WERE TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE TRUE SCOPE OF THESE VICTORIES IN ORDER TO BOLSTER CONFIDENCE WHILE PREPARING TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION IN LIGHT OF THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. UNITS WERE ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST "THE ENEMY'S" ATTEMPTS AT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE, AND WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO LISTEN TO THE "BBC.1" ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~ II. NORTH VIETNAM
XGDS-2 XXHH #8324

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